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Oral History of Jeanne Arth Interview with Jeanne Arth

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ORAL HISTORY OF JEANNE ARTH

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ORAL HISTORY OF JEANNE ARTH

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ORAL HISTORY OF JEANNE ARTH

INTERVIEW WITH JEANNE ARTH

AUGUST 4, 2002, NOVEMBER 9, 2002, and DECEMBER 15, 2002

BY SHARON L. VAN OTEGHEN AND ALLYS SWANSON

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**ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH OFFICE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS**

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We, JEANNE M. ARTH and
(Interviewee, please print)

SHARON L. VAN OEGHEN and
ALYS M. SWANSON, hereby
(Interviewer, please print)

give our oral history interview(s), initiated on 8/4/02, 11/7/02, to the
(Date)

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Jeanne M. Arth
Interviewee

8/4/02
11/7/02
Date

Sharon L. Van Oeghen
Alys Swanson
Interviewer

8/4/2002
11/7/2002
Date

Charles W. Crawford
For the Oral History Research Office

6/29/2004
Date

ORAL HISTORY OF JEANNE ARTH

Jeanne Arth, educator-athlete, was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame on November 9, 2002. During her undergraduate years at the College of St. Catherine, Jeanne was National College Girls' Tennis Tournament Singles Finalist and Doubles Champion from 1954-1956. Ranked in the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Top 10 from 1957-1958, Jeanne and her doubles partner, Darlene Hard, captured the USTA doubles title in 1958 and again in 1959. Also victorious at Wimbledon in 1959, the pair captured the Wimbledon doubles crown.

THIS RESEARCH PROJECT IS AN ORAL HISTORY OF JEANNE ARTH, 1959 WIMBLEDON DOUBLES CHAMPION AND 2002 INTERCOLLEGIATE TENNIS ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE. THE INITIAL AND FINAL ASPECTS OF THIS INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE ON AUGUST 4, 2002, AND DECEMBER 15, 2002, VIA PHONE WITH JEANNE WHO RESIDES IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA. THE MAJOR PORTION OF THE INTERVIEW WAS CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 9, 2002, IN WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA. IN THE FINAL ASPECT OF THE INTERVIEW JEANNE RELATED HER IMPRESSIONS OF A RECEPTION HELD IN HER HONOR ON NOVEMBER 11, 2002 IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA. THIS EVENT FOLLOWED THE HALL OF FAME INDUCTION.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Jeanne, when and where were you born?

MISS ARTH: I was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, July 21, 1935.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Do you have siblings?

MISS ARTH: Yes, I have a sister, Shirley, who is two and a half years older than I and a brother, Tom, who is nine years younger than I am.

ALLY SWANSON: How did family values influence you?

MISS ARTH: My mother and father were German. There was a bit of Irish in my background as well. My family was strict and had strong values. We were Catholic, and my siblings and I had to go to church when we were young. We continue now to go to church regularly.

Also our family ate dinner at a certain time each day. My mother always

reminded me when I headed to the tennis court that dinner would be at 5:15pm. We lived only three doors from the courts. When I did not appear home by 5:15pm, I could hear my father whistle or my mother holler, "Come on home for dinner." It did not matter whether I was in the middle of a point. Play ended promptly. Though strict, my family taught their children to live a good life, to be honest and not lie or cheat, to be humble and to follow the Ten Commandments to the best of our ability.

My mother recently lived in and later died in a nursing home. There is a restaurant in St. Paul that places pictures of different people, sports and otherwise, on the wall. A social worker who visited my mother said to me, "I did not know you played tennis. I saw your picture on the restaurant wall." She then said to my mother who was 95 at the time, "You must be very proud of Jeanne." My mother replied, "I do not brag about her." With all the achievements Shirley and I had, my mother never bragged about us nor did my parents go to the various tournaments with us as many parents do now. We did not have a family car prior to my turning age 13.

It was important to my mother to be a good homemaker and that her children be clean. She often said, "Cleanliness is next to godliness." We wore white clothes for tennis at the time. We played hard, and the clothes and fabrics were not "wash and wear." My mother washed clothes in the old type wringer washer, hung the wash outside to dry, and later ironed the clothes. Overall our family had good values.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What early childhood experiences do you recall that you enjoyed?

MISS ARTH: In 1940, my family moved near the St. Paul Tennis Club. It was only three doors away from our home and that is

more or less why and where I started playing tennis. When my sister and I went up to the school grounds, we walked by the tennis club carrying our tennis rackets. The club manager, Louis Soukup, took notice of us and asked if we wanted to come in and use the backboard.

Also when I was a kid, a lot of the boys in the neighborhood had baskets and hoops in the alleys, and we played "21" in basketball. We also used to go up to the playground which was only a half block away from our home to play softball. Usually there were not enough children for a team, so we would just play "work-up". Also we played on the tennis courts with other kids if they were around.

In the fall, I played touch football with the boys. And then in the wintertime, the tennis courts were transformed into an outdoor skating rink, so I did a lot of ice-skating. I got to play hockey with the boys too.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How old were you when you had some of the physical activity experiences you described?

MISS ARTH: When I first began to play a bit of tennis, I was five years old. I began skating by age six or seven and continued skating up until I was a 15 or 16-year-old teen-ager.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Do you recall where you and Shirley got your tennis rackets?

MISS ARTH: Yes. My father used to play tennis on weekends with some of his friends on public courts. Before we moved near the St. Paul Tennis Club, my father would take us to watch him play with friends. I remember that my mother bought us dime store rackets. They were full sized rackets. In

fact, before I moved to my present apartment, I found my original racket up in the attic. I cannot believe I could even swing it when I was a child. It had a big handle on it, there was no leather grip, and I was very small for my age. But evidently I managed to do it.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I wondered about that when I saw the picture that shows you holding the racket as a young child given that today children frequently begin with junior rackets.

MISS ARTH: The white racket in the picture you printed off the Internet was the one I used.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Where did you attend elementary school?

MISS ARTH: I attended Linwood Grade School from kindergarten through eighth grade. It was only a half block away from where I lived. I then went to St. Paul Central High School from 1948 to 1952.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What physical activities did you participate in during childhood and / or in elementary school?

MISS ARTH: We had recess and would go out on the playground for a half hour or so. I remember that we played softball. I do not recall the exact games we participated in as young children, but in all likelihood, we played various children's games such as "Red Rover" and kickball.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: In the seventh and eighth grades did the school provide an organized physical education program?

MISS ARTH: No, the classroom teacher took us out for recess in warm weather and to the gym in the winter to play games.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were there any intramural or interscholastic opportunities

for seventh or eighth graders?

MISS ARTH: No.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did the high school you attended offer organized physical education?

MISS ARTH: Yes. We had to take physical education in the ninth and tenth grades. What I remember about Central High School physical education classes is that the teacher had us do rhythms and a lot of exercises. When we could do the exercises to perfection (bring the leg to a certain height etc.), then we got to play volleyball. In the spring we got to play softball.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you have a male or female physical education teacher?

MISS ARTH: Female.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were intramurals offered at the high school level?

MISS ARTH: There were some intramural activities. We played a game called fieldball that seemed to be a combination of basketball and soccer. We may also have played volleyball, but there were few intramural offerings in those days.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were there interscholastic sport team opportunities?

MISS ARTH: Just for the boys. I do remember when I was at St. Paul Central High School that the tennis coach looked into whether my sister and I could play on the boys' team. At that time it was not allowed. If we had had the opportunity to do so, it would have been fun, but as I look back on it now, I think it would have been a bad idea. I do not see any point to girls playing on boys' teams.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What years were you in high school?

MISS ARTH: 1948–1952.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: So you graduated from high school in 1952.

MISS ARTH: Yes.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Obviously, your interest in tennis did not come through your schooling.

MISS ARTH: No, not at all.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Who taught you tennis skills?

MISS ARTH: When we moved near the St. Paul Tennis Club, the person who took an interest in Shirley and me was Louis Soukup.

Louis was a young fellow who rolled the tennis courts. I suppose he would have been referred to as a tennis professional, but he did not give much in the way of lessons. There was a practice court in the back, and he let us go in there and hit balls against the wall. During that time I am sure he gave us some informal instruction. Then as we got a little bit older, we used to go up to the courts and sit around and wait, because there were women who used to come up and play tennis in the mornings.

As we got older, the women could see that we could play, and if someone they expected to play with did not show up, they asked us to fill in. We learned a lot from the women with whom we played in a round about way. My Dad also gave us some pointers, but he worked full time and was not able to help us during the day time. Also when we were at the Club, members hit balls with us and everyone “put in their two cents worth” in the way of instruction.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Do you remember what grips you were taught?

MISS ARTH: Yes. The eastern forehand, the “shaking hand grip.” I think the eastern forehand grip was just a natural grip for me.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How about backhand?

MISS ARTH: You just moved your hand over about a quarter of an inch.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Those are the grips I learned. Did anyone use the two-handed backhand at that time?

MISS ARTH: No one used the two-handed backhand. That came in during the last 15 to 20 years or so.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you played competitively, did you and those you played use the one-handed backhand?

MISS ARTH: Yes. The two-handed backhand was not used by anyone.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Your comments give the impression that as a young girl you enjoyed playing and being at the tennis courts a lot. Did you have an immediate love for the game, or did you come to enjoy the game as you began to master the tennis skills?

MISS ARTH: I think Shirley and I played because the opportunity was right there at our doorstep, so to speak. It was fun to go up to the courts and play with the different women. No one ever forced us to play. Neither our mother nor our father ever told us to go to the courts and practice. We never had formal lessons and learned primarily on our own. I enjoyed the competition, and it was fun.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you ever get frustrated with your performance and feel

that you did not want to play anymore.

MISS ARTH: No. I never had that feeling. Perhaps that was because I only played a few months out of the year. In that I was never forced to play or practice, I never practiced for hours at a time. My sister and I would go to the tennis courts to play in the morning, but the game never lasted too long. We would get upset with one another, and one of us would hit the ball down the last court, leaving the other to chase it. I ended up doing most of the chasing, because I was the younger of the two.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Once you began to play at any level of competition, did you begin to practice regularly?

MISS ARTH: No, I do not recall that I did that. My practice consisted of simply playing. I do not believe that I ever went out to just practice serves or hit backhand shots. I did not have an instructor, so mainly I just played.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: You said that most of the time you played with various women. Did there come a time when you began to play with or against male tennis players?

MISS ARTH: Oh yes. As we got better and older, we were often at the courts in the afternoon when the men usually played. If they were waiting for someone to arrive, they often invited us to hit balls with them. The women usually played in the morning.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When did you show an interest in attending college?

MISS ARTH: In high school I took courses in what was deemed a

“college track.” I assumed I would go to college. Also I knew that I wanted to be a teacher. I always liked school. It was easy for me, and I skipped the sixth grade, so I was a year ahead. There was really no doubt that I would go to college.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you know when you entered college what your major would be?

MISS ARTH: I wanted to be a teacher, and in those days women usually prepared to be a teacher, librarian, nurse, occupational therapist or social worker. At the time I attended the College of St. Catherine, we were on the quarter system. I started out with a major in elementary education, and then I switched my major to physical education. I minored in theology and philosophy.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How did you select the college you would attend for your undergraduate work?

MISS ARTH: The College of St. Catherine was close to where I lived, and my sister was already there and two years ahead of me. Though I had not attended either a Catholic grade school or high school, I did enroll in a Catholic college. For some reason or other, neither Shirley nor I considered attending the University of Minnesota. Not only was St. Catherine's within a few miles of my home, but it had a good reputation. I followed in my sister's footsteps in deciding to go there.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Would you term your undergraduate preparation at the College of St. Catherine to have been a quality experience?

MISS ARTH: Oh, yes, I had an excellent education there that prepared me not only for a career in teaching but for other life

experiences as well. The four years that I spent at the College of St. Catherine were very pleasant and very worthwhile.

ALLY SWANSON: At the time you attended the College of St. Catherine, your coursework was based on a curriculum for a major in education. Discuss your undergraduate preparation in that regard.

MISS ARTH: Every female who attended the College of St. Catherine had to take four years of philosophy and four years of theology at the undergraduate level. At the time I was an undergraduate, the College was on the quarter system, three quarters per year. At the end of four years, we ended up with a theology and a philosophy minor based upon the number of credits we had accumulated.

ALLY SWANSON: That is very interesting and reflects the philosophy of the College of St. Catherine, a liberal arts undergraduate Catholic school for women.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: During your undergraduate years at the College of St. Catherine, were you playing in tennis tournaments?

MISS ARTH: I did not play for the College. During the summers of my undergraduate years, however, I was still in the Juniors and had two more years of eligibility. I was 17 and 18 years of age while a freshman and sophomore so I played in the "Girls' 18 and Under Championships." I played in both junior and women's local tournaments during my first two years in college, and in 1954, 1955, and 1956, I played in girls' collegiate tournaments that were held at Washington University in St. Louis.

Though the College of St. Catherine did not have tennis teams, Carleton College in Minnesota held an invitational one or two summers, and I went down there to play.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: While in college, did you play tennis only in the summers?

MISS ARTH: Yes. I did not play during the school year, because there were no indoor courts.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you do any conditioning similar to what athletes in various sports do today?

MISS ARTH: No. That was something that did not even enter anyone's mind at the time I played.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What sports teams did the College of St. Catherine offer for women?

MISS ARTH: We had intramurals rather than sports teams. Mainly it was the dormitories vs. the city of St. Paul / Minneapolis teams.

If you were from St. Paul you could play on a St. Paul team, for example. The major teams were basketball, volleyball and swimming. I played basketball and volleyball.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: At what age did you actually begin to compete in tennis?

MISS ARTH: At age 11 or 12.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What were some of the earliest competitions that you entered?

MISS ARTH: Various local tournaments. The first tournaments in which I played were in the St. Paul / Minneapolis area. They were either city tournaments or tournaments sponsored by the Northwest Tennis Association, now called the Northern Tennis Association. At the time, tournaments were offered for

ages 15 and under, and in women's competition, ages 18 and under. When I first competed in women's competition, I believe I was 12 years old.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you play singles, doubles or both?

MISS ARTH: Singles and doubles mainly. Once in awhile I played mixed doubles.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: With whom did you play doubles?

MISS ARTH: My sister mainly until she was too old for the junior competition. I played with her in women's competition until she graduated from college and moved out of the city.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Where did you initially play in competitions that were not local tournaments?

MISS ARTH: I believe the first was in Duluth, Minnesota when I was about 12 years old.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How did your parents feel about your traveling away from home to compete at age 12?

MISS ARTH: I rode up with some friends of my family. My parents did not have a car at that time. It was a weekend tournament.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were they pleased that you had such an opportunity?

MISS ARTH: I suppose that they were though I do not remember that they said so. In 1948, when I was 13, my sister and I were selected to play in the United States Girls' Championship for ages 18 and under in Philadelphia. So we played in that particular tournament from 1948 until 1953, six years. During that time, my father took his vacation for a week or so, and for some years we

took a train to Philadelphia since my parents did not want us to be traveling unsupervised. The Northwest Tennis Association paid our expenses. The Association did not have much money, and it was not until tournament time each year that the organization knew whether there would be enough money to send us.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did your parents follow your tennis career quite closely from the time that you began playing such that they were present for your matches?

MISS ARTH: No, they really did not, because my father worked, my mother was a homemaker, and our family did not have a car until I was 13 years old. They really were not able to come to most of the tennis tournaments in which we played. I am sure they were proud of us, but in those days parents did not follow their children in sports like they do now. There may have been a few parents that came to the matches, but it was not like the type of parental support young athletes are given today. The only time my mother ever saw me play competitively was when I played in the Junior Girls' Tournament. My sister turned 18 in 1950 and was already out of competition. However, the last two years that I played in the Junior Girls my father drove my mother, brother and me to Philadelphia for the tournament.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When did you first begin to play mixed doubles?

MISS ARTH: I do not recall, although it was probably in my late teens or early twenties. Even then, very few mixed doubles were played around here (Minneapolis / St. Paul area). In 1957, 1958 and 1959 I played mixed doubles nationally at Wimbledon and in other big tournaments.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How exactly did the tournaments in St. Louis begin for you?

MISS ARTH: In 1954, the National College Girls' Tournament was held at Washington University. A woman by the name of Helen Manley originated it. I do not remember how I found out about it. Something may have been sent to me in the mail. None of the players represented colleges per se, but all who played in that particular tournament were college students. One of the years I played in St. Louis, St. Catherine's gave me \$50.00 toward my expenses. I took the train to St. Louis. I did not have a doubles partner, so the first year I played with Sally O'Reilly. I believe she was from Florida, but I am not certain. In that neither she nor I had a partner, we were paired up, and she and I won the doubles.

The next two years, 1955 and 1956, I played with Janet Hopps Adkisson, who was from Seattle University. I think we arranged after the first year to play together the following year. I had met her when we were playing with the junior girls in Philadelphia. We vaguely knew each other, but decided to play together as college girls. We won doubles both of those years.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you were paired with someone other than your sister, did you have an opportunity to practice with that individual against others prior to tournament play?

MISS ARTH: No, players just arrived at the tournament site and played with whomever they were paired with. In some cases if players lived in the same section of the country, they were likely to have practiced or played with each other at various times.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: That is quite different from today.

MISS ARTH: Yes. Today doubles competition does not have quite the same tone, because when I played in the women's national and international tournaments, all of the top women and the top men played doubles. Today you do not find that to be the case. A lot of the men and women who play doubles now do not play in the singles. Playing only in the singles is the case more often for the men than the women. They want to simply concentrate on singles play.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Once you began to play in tournaments, did you initially win championships or were there years that you played when you did not come in first or second?

MISS ARTH: In the St. Paul / Minneapolis area where I lived, I was in the finals of most of the junior tournaments against my sister when I was ages 12 and 13. Sometimes Shirley and I were in the 15 and Under and in the 18 and Under tournaments together. At other times we played together in the women's tournaments.

When I was younger, my sister beat me more than I beat her, but once I became 14 or 15 and began to beat her, she no longer won against me. In the St. Paul / Minneapolis area, I pretty much dominated women's singles and doubles for about 20 years.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you appear to have a bit more natural ability than your sister, Shirley?

MISS ARTH: I think I probably did. As a young child, Shirley was actually more interested in playing with her dolls. She

largely played tennis because I was playing, and, of course, we lived near the tennis club. Nevertheless, Shirley turned out to be a good tennis player and was ranked number one or two in the St. Paul / Minneapolis area. We got to the finals in the U.S. Girls' 18 and Under doubles tournament in 1950 so that was good.

Shirley was also a quarterfinalist in the singles. After she was involved in 18 and under play, Shirley played a bit longer in the St. Paul / Minneapolis area, but she no longer played nationally.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: At what point in time did you begin to be ranked in tennis?

MISS ARTH: I was ranked in the St. Paul area tennis section as early as age 12 or 13. At age 13, when I first went to the National Girls' 18 and Under Tournament, I was ranked number 15 in the country in singles. I was a quarterfinalist in 1949, 1950, and 1951, was ranked number nine in 1949, and number five in 1950 and 1951. In 1952 I was a semifinalist and was ranked number 6. I do not know how it happened that I was ranked lower when I advanced further.

In 1953, I was in the semifinals again, and was ranked number four in singles. In the doubles, in 1948, when I was 13 and Shirley was 15, we were in the quarterfinals, and ranked number three. In 1949 we were in the quarterfinals and ranked number four, and then in 1950, when in the finals, we were ranked number four.

In 1951, I was a semifinalist in doubles and played with Laura Lou John from Florida. We were ranked number four. In 1952, I was a semifinalist with Gwenyth Johnson from Philadelphia, and we were ranked number 3. In 1953, I was again a finalist with Gwenyth Johnson at which point we were ranked number two.

Sometimes rankings appear to have no rhyme or reason in that one can receive a

lower ranking as one advances. Also tennis players from California dominated play during the early years that I played, and individuals on the committees that determined rankings were frequently from California. Also it was difficult to make comparisons, because many of the top players from California had played each other while we had not played against the players from California until we got to the tournaments.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: The rankings probably had to do with whether or not you had been a finalist, semifinalist or quarterfinalist in the previous year or whether you had been seeded.

MISS ARTH: That was taken into consideration, and after 1948, the first year I played in tournaments, I was seeded. The last few years I played in Junior Girls I was seeded quite high, that is, within the top four positions.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How did tournament play fit into your college years and the years after you graduated from college?

MISS ARTH: I graduated from the College of St. Catherine in 1956.

 During the four years that I was in college, outside of going to the Junior Girls' Championships in 1952 and 1953, I just played tennis locally, because I had to work my way through college. I had a full time job during the summers with the Highway Department doing secretarial work. Because I had to work to pay for my college education, I was not able to compete nationally except in the Junior Girls' Championships and in the College Girls' Tournament. I went on a trip with my family to California after college graduation. Once our vacation was over, I spent the rest of the summer playing locally.

Once I had graduated from college in 1956 and after playing in the College Girls' Tournament, I wanted to see whether I could compete nationally. In 1957, the Northwest Tennis Association was able to help me a bit financially such that I was able to go to some of the tournaments. Also in those days, most of the tournaments for both men and women were held at the same site, and would only allow a certain few people in, depending on their rankings. Coming from Minnesota and not having played during my college years, even though I had junior records, I had to pretty much see on a week to week basis whether or not I could get in to some of the tournaments.

When I competed in the U.S. Tennis Association Girls' Tournament in Philadelphia in 1948, I became acquainted with Mary Hardwick Hare and her husband, Charles Hare, who were from England. The two of them worked with Wilson Sporting Goods. Charles worked in the promotions department for Wilson, and Mary Hardwick had a tennis racket named after her.

Mary always came to the U.S. Girls' National for Wilson, and she often hit balls with Shirley and me during the tournament week. Both she and her husband took a liking to my sister and me, and from that time on, we got our rackets free through Wilson and one or two dozen tennis balls during the summer months. Also when Shirley and I played in the Juniors, the Hares arranged for us to play in various tournaments in Ohio, Milwaukee, River Forest near Chicago and in Indianapolis.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: So in order to get ranked nationally, you had to play in national tournaments?

MISS ARTH: Yes, you had to play in national tournaments, and it also helped if you played in other tournaments.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What were the various national tournaments?

MISS ARTH: The U.S. Girls' Championship 18 and Under and the U.S. Women's Championship that was held in Forest Hills.

ALLY SWANSON: Preceding tournament play in 1957 you assumed your first teaching position at the Academy of Holy Angels where you taught from 1956-1961. From 1962-1963 you taught physical education at South High School in Minneapolis. You then moved to the Bloomington, Minnesota schools where you spent 31 years prior to retiring from teaching in 1993. Share your various teaching experiences.

MISS ARTH: Holy Angels was an all girls' high school of about 800 students, and, of course, the pay was somewhat less than the pay in public schools. In that I had attended public schools with the exception of earning my undergraduate degree at The College of St. Catherine, I decided I would move into public school teaching and applied to the Minneapolis Public School System.

I was placed at South High School where I stayed for only one year. The facilities for physical education were quite poor. The gymnasium was very small, and the outdoor facilities were not very good. Also there was little possibility that I would be transferred to another school within the system. Upon learning that Bloomington had an opening in physical education at the high school level, I applied for the position and was offered the job. Bloomington is a suburb of Minneapolis that had good school facilities along with the fact that a new high school was being constructed.

I first taught tenth graders in what was called the Bloomington Annex while Kennedy High School was being built. When I moved into the new Kennedy High

School, I became the boys' varsity tennis coach. I served in that capacity for four or five years. After that period of time, it became too much to coach while teaching and also working on a master's degree in counseling.

In 1970 I completed a master's degree in psychology / counseling. Right after that there was an opening in the area of counseling at one of the junior high schools in Bloomington. For approximately ten years I served as a counselor at the junior high level before returning once again to Kennedy High School to a position in counseling. I completed my teaching career at Kennedy High School. Overall I taught physical education for 25 years and served as a counselor for 17 years.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: While at Kennedy High School, did you also coach girls' tennis?

MISS ARTH: It was pre-Title IX and there were no varsity girls' teams in any sport in the Minneapolis suburban schools.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: At the time you coached the boys' varsity team it was not common for boys to be coached by a female. Did the boys readily accept you in that capacity?

MISS ARTH: The boys knew I had won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, so my acceptance as their coach was not a problem. I believe I was the first female, however, to coach a boys' team at least in the twin-city area. I could beat all of the boys on the team as well.

During the time that I coached the boys' varsity team we were not a powerhouse in tennis. The boys' tennis team in Edina, another Minneapolis suburb, was a strong team. Primarily wealthy families lived in Edina, and many of the boys had taken tennis

lessons and frequently played on tennis center indoor courts. By the time I left my position at Kennedy High School, I believe that only two of the boys went on to play on college tennis teams. A couple of boys that I coached played in tennis tournaments during the summers as well as during the school year. They played only on the tennis team, whereas several of the boys who played tennis also played other sports. One year we were seven and three in the conference. That was pretty good considering the level of players on the Kennedy High School team.

ALLY SWANSON: Jeanne, your tennis career peaked in the early 1960s. At that time you could not make money by participating in tennis, but you were technically earning money as a tennis coach. Did that ever affect your tournament play?

MISS ARTH: No. First of all I was no longer playing in tennis tournaments. Had I still been playing, it would not have affected me as an amateur, because my teaching position encompassed coaching responsibilities. It was no different than if I had taught and advised the Girls' Athletic Association. Had I just been hired to coach tennis, that might have made a difference, though I do not think there would have been a problem even then. I knew men who coached and continued to compete, and it was not a factor for them.

ALLY SWANSON: Were you involved in tennis in any way when you taught at the Academy of Holy Angels?

MISS ARTH: No, the school did not have tennis courts, so there was no opportunity to teach or coach tennis.

ALLY SWANSON: How did your sense of values and/or personal philosophy

contribute to the whole of what you emphasized in physical education and athletics? Did you, for example, emphasize sports above all or was your first priority to provide a well-rounded physical education program for students?

MISS ARTH: At Holy Angels I was hired to simply teach physical education. However, my last year there I taught a senior social studies course called "Modern Problems." I also taught a religion class at Holy Angels. Because I had minored in social studies and in theology and philosophy at the College of St. Catherine, I was certified to teach either of those courses. Though I taught a health class in addition to physical education classes at South High School in Minneapolis, I was technically not certified to teach in that area. I had taken only a first aid class during my undergraduate work, but there was a need for someone to teach health at South High. In Bloomington, drivers' education was a part of the physical education curriculum. So I went back to school to become certified in drivers' education and in "behind the wheel training." However, I never taught "behind the wheel" classes.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you taught physical education did you offer a variety of activities or units during each year to include team and individual sports, dance, gymnastics and the like?

MISS ARTH: The schools at which I taught followed the recommended curriculum for physical education for the most part, so yes, dance, gymnastics and the various sports were taught. I do not recall ever having done very much with gymnastics until I taught in Bloomington. At the College of St. Catherine, I received no training in gymnastics, because the College had no gymnastics equipment at the time I did my undergraduate work there. Sometimes I team taught

gymnastics, so that a colleague who had been taught gymnastics could help me in that area.

ALLYS SWANSON: Do you recall, Jeanne, at the time you coached tennis, the length of the tennis season and how often practices could occur? Were there guidelines you had to follow?

MISS ARTH: At the time I coached tennis, the tennis season began in March right after the hockey season. Everything was determined by the Minnesota High School League. The League rules governed the length of the season, how many matches could be played, and the number of practice sessions that could occur. I remember one year when the boys' tennis team was allowed to begin tennis practices in mid-March there was a terrible blizzard on St. Patrick's Day. The team really did not get into practices that year until the middle of April.

ALLYS SWANSON: Did your team participate in a state Tournament?

MISS ARTH: I never had any players who made it to state tournaments. At times they participated in district and regional tournaments, however. Tennis was a minor sport at the time I coached and only shirts with the school logo and tennis balls were furnished to the players. The players had to provide their own rackets. In time, indoor courts were available in the community, but the school could not afford to have the team play in an indoor facility. It cost to play on indoor courts, and only a couple of the boys on the team were able to take advantage of indoor play.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How did the team travel from school to school?

MISS ARTH: I drove the team members in a school van. It was similar to

a 10 to 12 passenger bus. For long trips, the school district provided a bus driver for us.

ALLY SWANSON: What were the major frustrations you experienced while coaching high school tennis?

MISS ARTH: Because I knew the situation for our players, I did not experience frustration. To become a good tennis player required summer practice and play. Our school season was so short (commonly the middle of April until the first of June) that I did not have unrealistic expectations for player performance. It was not time enough for the boys to develop into excellent players.

ALLY SWANSON: What do you recall about the year 1957 with respect to your tennis career?

MISS ARTH: When I decided to give the women's tennis tour a try again in 1957, Mary Hardwick Hare and her husband, Charles, were instrumental in bringing my name up such that I could get in to some of the tournaments. I was very successful and had good results in 1957 such that from week to week I could get in to each succeeding tournament. I was never denied entry into any of the tournaments, and that year (1957) I was ranked number seven in the United States.

Obviously I did not have a doubles partner, so I played in the U.S. Doubles Tournament with Pat Naud from California. We were semifinalists in the U.S. Doubles and were ranked fifth that year. Because I was ranked seventh in singles, it was easy for me to get into the tournaments in 1958.

ALLY SWANSON: Share the significance of your tennis accomplishments in

1958.

MISS ARTH: During the summer of 1958 I was supposed to play doubles with Janet Hopps with whom I had played in the Women's College Tournament in 1955 and 1956. However, Janet injured her back and had to go back to Seattle during the summer. So every week during the summer of 1958 I played doubles with a different person in the various tournaments. My partners and I were quite successful, because we never lost before the quarterfinals, and at times we played in the semifinals.

Darlene Hard, who had played doubles with Althea Gibson in 1957, came to a tournament in Philadelphia toward the end of the summer of 1958. Darlene was a counselor at a tennis camp in Massachusetts that summer and was not playing a great deal of tennis. She was trying to earn money in order to attend Pomona College. I was staying at Mrs. Wightman's home.

Darlene knew that I did not have a doubles partner and suggested that she and I play in the U.S. Doubles in Boston. At the time, the U.S. Doubles Championships were not held at the same site as the U.S. Singles Championships. The doubles championships were held at Longwood Cricket Club in Boston, Massachusetts. Without a doubles partner, you had to pretty much sit around for a week. So Darlene and I decided to go ahead and play together.

We entered the U.S. Doubles Championships though not seeded (because we had not formerly played together) and ended up winning the U.S. Doubles! I have said many times over that it was the most exciting career win for us as well as my most memorable year in tennis. We beat Althea Gibson and Maria Bueno who were ranked number one

and number two in the world in singles! Althea was the number one ranked United States player and Maria was ranked number two in the world. Because Althea and Maria were the current Wimbledon doubles champions, they were ranked number one in the world in doubles. We not only played Althea and Maria in the finals but had played other ranked teams prior to reaching the finals. In that we were not a seeded team, it was exciting to beat teams that were seeded and to win the United States Doubles.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What was the final point that the two of you achieved to determine that win?

MISS ARTH: We played three sets, having lost the first set. Darlene had driven a half hour or so from her camp to play that day and it was quite hot. Also we played a day early, on a Saturday, at Althea Gibson's request, because she was going to be on the Ed Sullivan Show on Sunday. So the tournament director permitted the women to play on Saturday. I recall that Darlene had a bad headache. We won the second set after losing the first set. Though I do not remember a lot about what occurred, I do recall that I served the final game we played. I held my serve. At either 40-30 or add-in, I served. Althea returned the ball to me. I rushed the net and volleyed, placing the ball down the middle of the court. Maria started for the return but did not get to it nor could Althea get to it!

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I know that was really an exciting moment.

MISS ARTH: It really was, because our chance of beating Althea Gibson and Maria Bueno was slim or next to none. In fact, we lost the first set either 2-6 or 3-6, and I lost my serve a couple of times. All of a sudden things turned around and we beat them. I am sure they were shocked and did not expect

to lose to us.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Am I correct that even at the point of winning doubles at Wimbledon, you had had no formal instruction in tennis?

MISS ARTH: That is correct. I never had lessons, nor did I have the money for lessons. At best, my sister and I got some help from the St. Paul Tennis Club and had the privilege of hitting with Mary Hardwick for 30 to 45 minutes or so once a year.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did players such as Darlene Hard or Althea Gibson attend tennis camps for instruction and / or have private lessons?

MISS ARTH: I do not believe they had private lessons, but Darlene was from southern California near the Los Angeles area and had good competition all year long. Althea Gibson worked her way up as the first black woman to play in competition. In the early 50s she was first allowed to play in the Women's Championship Tournament in Forest Hills.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Prior to you and Darlene Hard having played at Wimbledon, had the two of you gotten used to how each other played or agreed on doubles strategy?

MISS ARTH: Not outside of playing together at the U.S. Women's Doubles Tournament. The week after Darlene and I won the U.S. Doubles Championship, we went to New York for the U.S. Singles Championships. I defeated the number two and number five ranked players in the United States to reach the semifinals of the U.S. Women's Championships where I lost to Darlene.

ALLYS SWANSON: When you think back to your singles match against Darlene, why do you believe you lost?

MISS ARTH: Darlene was probably the better player. She had a higher ranking than I. The first set, however, went to 7-5.

ALLYS SWANSON: How did the 1958 season end for you?

MISS ARTH: Following the U.S. Women's Championships, Darlene went back to California, and I went back home to teach.

My tennis season always ended right after Labor Day, because that is when school started. The months I played each year ran primarily from the first or second week in June when school ended and lasted until approximately Labor Day.

ALLYS SWANSON: How did your 1958 tennis accomplishments lead to your playing at Wimbledon in 1959?

MISS ARTH: Darlene had already played at Wimbledon in 1957. I believe she was a finalist in the singles, and I believe she and Althea Gibson may have won the doubles. Due to Darlene's need to earn money for college by working at a camp, she had not played in the tennis circuit at all in 1958 prior to our playing in the U.S. Doubles.

After Darlene and I won the U.S. Doubles in 1958, there was talk about us going to Wimbledon in 1959. Only so many players from the United States are selected to play at Wimbledon, because Wimbledon is an international tournament, and every country could or should be represented in Wimbledon play. Though only so many from any particular country could go, it was pretty certain that Darlene and I would go to Wimbledon and play doubles based upon the fact that we had won the 1958 U.S. Doubles

Championship. In 1959, as we expected would be the case, Darlene and I were invited to play at Wimbledon. We were seeded number one in doubles and ended up winning the Ladies' Doubles.

I do not recall the team we played in the quarterfinals. It could have been a seeded team, but I do not recall. In the semi-finals we beat Sandra Reynolds and Renee Schuerman who were the top two players from South Africa. We moved on to the finals and won!

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you and Darlene won doubles at Wimbledon was it a challenging match or did you win the match quite easily?

MISS ARTH: The doubles finals were a challenge. A few hours before the doubles match, Darlene had lost to Maria Bueno in the finals of the women's singles. I believe they had played three sets and Darlene was a bit down. But we won the doubles in three sets over Christine Truman, England's top player, and Beverly Baker Fleitz from the United States. Beverly was somewhat near the end of her tennis career but was ranked three or four in our country. We lost the first set to Christine and Beverly, but we won the next two sets. Though I do not recall the scores of the last two sets, they were probably something like 6-3 and 6-2. They were not long sets.

When Darlene and I went to England we arrived at the same time and played in one or two tournaments prior to playing at Wimbledon. We lost at what was called Queens the week before Wimbledon to the two players that we beat in the Wimbledon doubles finals, and we may have played together in one other tournament in England. Darlene was a good doubles player. She served and volleyed well. We never

talked strategy or sat down and talked about how we would play someone. We just played.

I also played mixed doubles at Wimbledon with the number four player from Australia, Bob Mark. During the winter, Harry Hopman, coach of the Australian Davis Cup Team, wrote me and asked if I would play with one of his players. Bob Mark became that player. We were unseeded at Wimbledon, because we had never played together. We did reach the semi-finals where we lost to Neale Fraser and Maria Bueno in three sets.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you and I taught together in Minneapolis, I watched you play tennis matches on occasion and recall that you enjoyed going to the net.

MISS ARTH: Oh, yes. That was my greatest strength. I liked to serve and volley. I also had a good forehand and a good return of serve. Darlene also liked to serve and volley. The minute Darlene or I served we got up to the net. We never stayed back.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Was readily taking the net an unusual tactic for women during the years you played competitive tennis?

MISS ARTH: Perhaps it was a bit unusual, but top players like Althea Gibson and Maria Bueno utilized the same strategy in that respect. They always rushed the net, and Althea was very tall, six feet or so in height. If you wanted to win at doubles you had to take the net rather than stay back in the court.

ALLY SWANSON: It is very interesting that Darlene played singles and then had to play a doubles match shortly thereafter. That would

probably not be the case today.

MISS ARTH: Back when I played tennis, on odd game changeovers
neither the men nor the women were allowed to sit down.

Now you are allowed to sit down for a minute or so while taking time to towel off and drink water or an appropriate liquid. When I was playing, there were no chairs to sit down on, and when you crossed over, you could take only a few seconds to grab a drink or towel off. Play, in a sense, was continuous.

Also if a woman's match went to three sets and had gotten to the point where each individual or team had won a set, there was a ten-minute break. One could use the restroom or quickly change clothes. The men, of course, played three out of five sets, and they had a ten-minute break after the third set if it were two sets to one.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Do you recall having played long matches when the
tiebreaker was not in effect?

MISS ARTH: Oh sure. I recall that there were long matches at times, but
I do not think I played any matches that ran longer than
10-8. When there was more than one set that ran that long, it made for a long match. Occasionally players would go up to twenty some games in a set, but that was not too often. Once in awhile someone played a 12-10 match. When Darlene and I won the Wightman Cup, we played sets of 10-8 and 10-8 against two of the English players. I never played during the tiebreaker era.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: The Wimbledon courts are grass courts. When you played
at Wimbledon was that the first time you played on grass?

MISS ARTH: No. The first time I played on grass was when I was 13

and played in the Girls' Nationals at the Philadelphia Cricket Club. It was not unusual to have the Girls' Nationals on grass, because those who lived on the east coast played on grass. The California players played on hard courts and around Minneapolis / St. Paul, there were clay courts. I like grass, because it is quick and I play better on a faster surface. It is also more conducive to serving and volleying. Wimbledon grass is better than the other grass courts. The topsoil is harder underneath and players do not experience as many bad bounces as they otherwise might. On television the courts appear all scuffed up and brown, but basically they are in good condition.

All of the big women's tournaments in 1957, 1958 and 1959 were eastern tournaments held primarily on grass courts. There was, however, a clay court circuit that started in June, and individuals played three tournaments on clay if they completed the entire circuit.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What is done to care for grass courts?

MISS ARTH: They are really manicured. When I first went out east to play in girls' matches, people were down on their hands and knees pulling little weeds and the like. They also cut the grass every morning. It is like a golf green grass but a trifle longer. At Wimbledon, play does not occur on the grass courts all of the time. The grass courts require a lot of maintenance and are saved for the championship games.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you played at Wimbledon, did you play on Center Court?

MISS ARTH: We played five or six matches on Center Court

including women's doubles and mixed doubles matches.

Bob Mark and I were semifinalists in mixed doubles, so we played some of our matches on Center Court. The other times I played matches on the Grandstand Court. It was torn down a few years ago. There is now another stadium that is called Court One. At the time I played, Court One was next to Center Court.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What exactly does Center Court imply? Does it provide the best view for royalty?

MISS ARTH: Center Court goes back to when Wimbledon first started.

 The stadium holds approximately 15,000 people. The first time I saw it I thought, "This is Center Court?" When you go in, you are immediately aware that the All England Tennis Club is actually located within the stadium. If you have seen it on television, it does not look like much of anything.

 The only individuals who could use the locker rooms of the All England Club were the seeded players. If you were not seeded, there were other changing rooms. I believe the same protocol is probably still followed. Luckily Darlene and I were seeded number one in the doubles and were able to use the Club locker room.

 The Royal Box is at one end of Center Court. Various royalties such as dukes, duchesses, princes, the Prime Minister, and higher officials sit in the Royal Box when they attend tennis events. I am told that the King and/or Queen of England never come to Wimbledon although Queen Elizabeth came once when Virginia Wade was in the finals. Supposedly, the reason the King and/or Queen do not come is because many years ago someone from the Royal House was not given preference for playing on Center Court. From that time on, these particular royalties have snubbed the Wimbledon event. There

may be some truth to it, because they seldom attend. However, Princess Margaret and Prime Minister Macmillan were present when I played on Center Court.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you played at Wimbledon as well as other places where there were large numbers of spectators, did you concentrate fully on your play rather than think about who might be in the stands viewing your performance?

MISS ARTH: I tended to block out whatever might have created stress or lack of concentration. Tennis spectators when I played were much different than present day tennis crowds. They were more polite and did not scream out. Rod Laver, at one time, called Center Court the “cathedral of tennis and its high altar”. It was very quiet on Center Court, almost like a church atmosphere. People were prim and proper and dressed up to go to the matches.

In the 50s women dressed up a great deal. Hats and gloves, and suits rather than slacks, were common attire. There was not a hollering out of names, and spectators showed their appreciation for tennis with polite applause.

Players are told before they walk out on Center Court that they are to walk to a certain spot and then turn and curtsy to the Royal Box. They again curtsy to the Royal Box when they leave the court. Around four o'clock people in the Royal Box get up and go out to tea. They usually try to do this when players are changing courts or when play is suspended for a short time. A bit later they filter back in.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Having tea must be either very traditional or very important to the Royals.

MISS ARTH: Yes, it is. The spectators on Center Court are also quite

close to the players. It was quite an experience to play there. Even today, players say that if given the opportunity, Wimbledon is the one place they would play whether or not dollars are associated with winning. Wimbledon is to tennis as the Masters is to golf. Both are associated with tradition.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you notice that after Venus and Serena won the doubles championship at Wimbledon last summer (2002), that upon leaving the court and walking a few feet, Serena took hold of the bottom of the tennis dress of one of she and Venus' opponents as a means of reminding the player that she needed to curtsy to the Royal Box?

MISS ARTH: Yes, and today the players are immediately interviewed so that the audience can hear. Also up until a few years ago, when the match was over, a carpet was rolled out on the court, and the Duke and Duchess of Kent came down on Center Court to present the trophies. The Duchess of Kent presented the trophies to the women, and the Duke of Kent made the trophy presentations to the men.

I noticed that this year for the first time, possibly due to time restrictions, that Venus and Serena went up into the Royal Box to receive their doubles trophies. That was not previously the case. Also back in time, everything was said to you in private on the court. No one in the audience heard what was said to you.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were you interviewed immediately after your Wimbledon doubles win?

MISS ARTH: No, that was not done.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: What was your Wimbledon trophy like?

MISS ARTH: It is the Duchess of Kent trophy, and it is kept at Wimbledon. I received a smaller replica of it that was mailed to me.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Is it a plate?

MISS ARTH: It is a cup with a little top on it. But the original trophy is kept at Wimbledon.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I assume your name is engraved on the original trophy.

MISS ARTH: Yes, it is. When you go into the All England Tennis Club with Center Court in the middle of it, there is a wall within a room where pictures of all of the past Wimbledon winners for singles, doubles, and mixed doubles appear.

I went back to England in 1989 primarily to visit my friends Mary and Charlie Hare who had moved back to England and who were members of the All England Tennis Club. I stayed with them for 10 days or so in their beautiful home that was approximately 100 miles south of London. We drove to London a couple of days before the Wimbledon tournament started. When we went to Wimbledon, I was able to go into the All England Club.

In one room, on an emerald green staircase wall, winners' names from various years are written in gold. First names were not used in a year such as 1959. Our doubles team appeared as J Arth – D Hard. Seeing my name up there when I made my 1989 visit did make an impression. Ordinary people cannot get in to see what I just described, but there is a tennis museum within the stadium that people can visit. All of the trophies are in a glass case as well, and it is fun and interesting to view them.

As soon as you come off the court carrying the trophy, it is taken from you and placed in the glass case that is then, of course, locked. Also when players are waiting to go onto Center Court, they view the following quotation from a portion of Kipling's poem, "IF." "If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster; And treat those two imposters just the same." If you think about it, tennis players have a responsibility whether they win or lose at Wimbledon, and, of course, only one person or one team comes off the court, a winner.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Am I correct in assuming that winners' names from each year are engraved on the original trophy that remains at Wimbledon?

MISS ARTH: Yes, and probably when there is room for no more names on a single trophy, additional trophies that look the same are added. Each winner gets a smaller version of the trophy to keep. I did notice this year (2002) that when the trophies were given to Serena and Venus, they each got a trophy that looked just like mine, but it was larger. Perhaps they now give larger replicas. In my case, I was sent a replica trophy about a month after the finals were held.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: That is very interesting. Who were some of the tennis players that you played against over time who later became noted or famous?

MISS ARTH: Probably the most noted one was Maureen Connolly who was known as "Little Mo." She was my age, and we first played one another at the Girls' National Tournament in Philadelphia. We were both 15. Maureen was from San Diego, and was being touted even then as a future champion

which she turned out to be. I played her in the quarterfinals in Philadelphia, and she beat me.

When I was 17 or 18, I played her again at Forest Hills in the U.S. Women's Championships, and I lost to her there. She had already won Wimbledon singles by that time. The thing I remember about Maureen was that as a person she was no different at 18 than she was at 15. Her career was cut short, because a few years later she was thrown from a horse against a cement truck, and her leg was badly injured. After that she could no longer play at a top level. She was probably the best player I ever played against.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: As I recall from pictures of Maureen, she was quite short.

MISS ARTH: Yes, she was, but she was a very solid player. She was coached by Eleanor (Teach) Tennant. There is a documentary on that aspect of Maureen's life. One time when I was at Forest Hills I remember that "Teach Tennant" had Maureen out on the court with a box of balls. She was instructing her to hit backhands to a specific corner of the opponent's court. That is what you really call being coached.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: It was the type of thing that Chris Evert's father did with her.

MISS ARTH: Like others of us, Maureen did not have money, but a couple from San Diego who ran a major newspaper paid a lot of her expenses and also paid for her coaching. "Teach Tennant" was really the one that got Maureen into championship form.

Another good player I played against was Althea Gibson who was older than I

and close to the end of her career when I played her. I also played Maria Bueno from Brazil who was rated number one in the world at the time.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were they pretty down to earth, friendly people?

MISS ARTH: Yes, they were, but you really do not spend much time with those you play or get to know them well. I will tell you a funny story that occurred with Althea Gibson at one time. When Darlene Hard and I played in and won the United States Lawn Tennis Association (USLTA) Women's Doubles Championship in Boston in 1958, Darlene was staying at the camp where she was working. I, along with six or seven other players, one of whom happened to be Althea Gibson, stayed with Mrs. Wightman. Mrs. Wightman had a large home that was located about two blocks from the Longwood Cricket Club.

To make a long story short, the morning that Darlene and I were going to play doubles, we were down having breakfast, and Althea was pouring honey into her milk. I asked her why she was doing that, and she said, "You will find out on the court!" I have always remembered that incident.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Perhaps she was health oriented or knew that honey would provide her with additional energy.

MISS ARTH: I do not know. Like I said, the players did not hang out together, so we knew little about one another.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Who was Mrs. Wightman and what is the significance of the Wightman Cup?

MISS ARTH: The Wightman Cup was named for Mrs. Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman. I do not know exactly when the Wightman Cup

started – possibly in the 1920s or 1930s. It was a competition between England and the United States. Seven matches were played, two doubles and five singles matches. In 1959 Darlene Hard and I were selected (named to the Wightman Cup Team) to play doubles, and Darlene was also selected to play singles. We had the winning match in doubles that gave us (the United States) a 4 to 3 victory. Darlene and I beat Christine Truman and Shirley Brasher who were the number one and number two singles players in England at the time. The score was 10-8, 10-8, so it was really a close match. I was the only player in the match that never lost my serve.

The Wightman Cup is no longer in existence. It got to be sort of one-sided with the United States dominating. For several years England and the United States women played against each other. It was dropped when interest in Wightman Cup play lessened. Today the Federation Cup Tournament is played among players from many countries. I do not know how many matches are played. The Federation Cup is somewhat like the Davis Cup, but all matches are held more or less at the same time.

ALLY SWANSON: When you played on the Wightman Cup Team, Jeanne, there was not a monetary purse. It was the honor of your country as a team competing against England as a team. Is there a purse connected with the Federation Cup?

MISS ARTH: It is all professional, and I am sure the players get paid. Today athletes do not play simply for recognition. How much they get paid, I do not know. All we got when we played on the Wightman Cup Team were white blazers, and we had to wear them. All of our expenses were paid, however. We were put up in a hotel in Pittsburgh the year we played the Wightman Cup

there.

One year the tournament was held in the United States, and the following year it was held in England. Tournament play alternated between the two countries. At that time there was really no money involved in tennis.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Was Mrs. Wightman a successful tennis player at one time?

MISS ARTH: Mrs. Wightman was inducted into the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Hall of Fame that I will be inducted into tomorrow evening (November 9, 2002). I think she was deceased by the time her induction occurred. But anyway, it was Mrs. Wightman who started the competition between women in the United States and England. She did a lot to promote tennis. I think she was a very good player in her day.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you know ahead of time that you would be staying with Mrs. Wightman when in Boston?

MISS ARTH: Yes, because I stayed with her in 1957, 1958 and 1959. She came down to one of the tournaments I was playing in and asked if I had a place to stay. She invited me to stay with her. Tennis back then was very persnickety. If you were ranked quite high, things opened up for you, and you were invited to play in tournaments. If you were not ranked, you were not invited.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did Mrs. Wightman have an elegant home?

MISS ARTH: Yes, she had a big home in Longwood (in the Boston area) just a few blocks away from where we played.

MISS ARTH: When I was in Junior Girls in 1952 and 1953, I was on the U.S. Junior Wightman Cup Team. That meant that after

the U.S. Girls' Championship, six or seven of us were able to go to Fort Sills where the U.S. Women's Championship was held. We stayed together, got a few pointers and were allowed to play in the U.S. Women's National Championship Tournament. Back then very few who were under 18 got to play in the U.S. Women's National Championship. It was not like today.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Was there any problem with Althea Gibson being able to stay in certain places due to the fact that she was black which, of course, would have reflected prejudice in that regard?

MISS ARTH: By the time I was playing in 1957, 1958 or 1959 those issues had gone away. When she first started playing, I think the reason it was so hard for her to get into tennis was because it was feared that numerous black people would come into the fancy clubs which at the time was not allowed. If you stop and think about it, back then, not many black people could even afford to belong to a club.

I think if you were to read about Althea and her life and tennis career, you would see that she really did have a hard time. Once she got into the U.S. tournaments and championships, however, she was successful in tennis.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: In some of the oral history work that Allys and I have done with African Americans, we learned that when they traveled, they used to have to stay at places other than where other athletes might have been housed. Often they ate at train stations, because they were not allowed in various restaurants. There was even a time when they were not allowed in a movie theater.

MISS ARTH: When I was playing tennis, Althea stayed at Mrs. Wightman's house. For most of the tournaments we were put up in private homes. I do not know where Althea might have stayed had she not stayed with Mrs. Wightman.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: When you stayed in private homes, did the hostess provide meals for you?

MISS ARTH: Yes, those who hosted us provided meals. Most of the tournaments were held at private, fancy clubs like the Merion Cricket Club, and the Philadelphia Mainline, and people went out of their way to accommodate us.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I imagine they enjoyed having you as their guests and conversing with you.

MISS ARTH: Oh, they did. Some of them had children, and they thought it was a privilege to have players stay in their home.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Do you recall any effective strategies that you ended up using against particular players that perhaps you had played previously and knew that you had to play a certain way in order to defeat them?

MISS ARTH: I believe that when I was playing in women's competition, I sort of knew players' strengths and weaknesses and how they played. I liked to serve and volley, and my forehand was the best part of my game. I also had good anticipation. Probably my weakest area was my backhand in comparison to other aspects of my game. Also, I probably was not the most patient player. I remember that if those I played got into really long rallies, I preferred to take the net and

either win or lose the point rather than to stay back and simply hit balls back and forth.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: After your Wimbledon win how much tennis did you
continue to play?

MISS ARTH: In 1959 after I returned home from Wimbledon, Janet
Hopps Adkisson and I took a boat back to the United States
rather than fly, because we had that opportunity. Then she and I took the train to Chicago
and played on the U.S. clay courts. I should have gone back east to play in the grass
court tournaments, but I did not. I had been gone since the first of May, and I knew that I
was not going to play nationally anymore. There was not much point for me to continue
to play, because in order for me to become a stronger player, I would have had to quit my
job and go to California. I did not want to do that, and I do not know where I would have
gotten the money to do it.

After Janet Hopps and I played on the clay courts, I went home and pretty much
knew that I would be named to the Wightman Cup Team that would be held in Pittsburgh
that year. I did not go back east until I played in the Wightman Cup in which Darlene
and I won the U.S. Doubles again (1959). I also played in the U.S. singles and lost to
Maria Bueno in three sets. It was 5-7 in the third set. That year my ranking went to 15,
because I simply did not play much anymore.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did that occur with other players who were going on with
their careers as well?

MISS ARTH: Most of the good players were from California, Florida and
Texas, and some of them played a winter circuit where they
would go down to the Caribbean. They would also go to Europe and play in Italy and

France. There was not professional tennis there, but the tennis sections were made up of individual people who financed that sort of thing. I do not recall that any of the other players went back to a job like I did. My tennis playing occurred from the time school was out until it began the next fall.

ALLY SWANSON: Your tennis career, Jeanne, encompassed play in the French Open. Share some aspects of your experiences in that tournament.

MISS ARTH: In 1959 when I needed to travel to Europe to play tennis, the United States Tennis Association officials suggested that I play in some European tournaments prior to playing at Wimbledon. The French Open took place in May, and I was fortunate that the principal at Holy Angels allowed me to leave school almost three weeks prior to the end of the school year. It was quite an unusual situation, because Catholic schools did not hire substitute teachers. So that was a big concession on the principal's part, but I was allowed to go without losing any of my teaching pay.

It was a difficult situation for me, because, at the time, there were no indoor tennis facilities in Minnesota. I had not touched a racket all winter; yet I was to leave in May to play in Paris. The French Open is played on red clay courts that are extremely slow. I grew up playing on clay courts in St. Paul, Minnesota, but the clay, though slippery, made for faster play. The Minnesota clay was not at all like the French clay. Pete Sampras has never won the French Open, for example. The French clay makes for an altogether different type of play! Even today, a lot of the European tennis players dominate the clay court tournaments. Clay makes for a more steady type of play.

When I was playing, the European players did not play net. Points were won by whoever could return the most balls. At the French Open the balls seemed to get bigger and bigger and bigger. Play was extremely slow, because the balls picked up so much clay. They almost looked like grapefruit to me, and our shoes and socks became literally red.

Though I had not played tennis all winter, I won three rounds in singles. I played doubles with a woman from Hungary (Darlene was still in school), and we got to the quarterfinals. I had so many blisters on my feet, felt miserable, and also did not speak French. I just played in that one tournament and was actually glad to leave Paris once the tournament was over.

Again I was not in good shape when I played in Paris, and I had not played for many months. But even when people are conditioned for tennis, they still get blisters when they play on clay courts, because there is so much running and sliding. It also seemed as though the European players hit 50 balls back on every point, and I am not patient. That type game was not my strength; I was a serve and volley player. You could hit balls forcefully downward (smash), and the European players would track the balls down and lob them back.

ALLYS SWANSON: The French Open was obviously quite a different experience for you than playing at Wimbledon. The year previous to playing in the French Open you had an interesting experience with the Dupont family. Relate that experience.

MISS ARTH: In 1958, after Darlene Hard and I won the U.S. Doubles, Margaret Osborne duPont asked me if I would like to spend

a week at the duPont residence, because there was a week between the U.S. Doubles and Singles. Of course I accepted, because the alternative would have been to simply stay in New York awaiting the next tournament.

Ten years prior to this point in time, Margaret Osborne was one of the top female tennis players in the world. She and Louise Brough had won many U.S. Singles and Wimbledon singles and doubles titles. When I first met Margaret Osborne duPont in 1958, she was at the end of her career. Darlene and I had beaten Margaret duPont and her partner in the U.S. Doubles.

I am not sure why she invited me to spend time at the duPont estate, but it was quite an experience. She was married to William duPont from the duPont Chemical Company. The estate was in Wilmington, Delaware, so I took a train from Boston to Wilmington, and one of the duPont chauffeurs picked me up at the train depot. He drove us to the estate that was all fenced in. I do not know how large it was, but it was huge. There were guards at the gate, and once inside the gate, there were guards at the house entrance.

Margaret's husband, William duPont, raised racing horses. There were grass tennis courts, clay tennis courts, and an indoor tennis court. The duPont's had all different types of tennis courts as well as swimming pools. Of course, the house was just mammoth. Being there was quite an experience.

We were able to practice on grass courts prior to the U.S. singles being played the following week at Forest Hills on grass. Margaret had invited two Australian women, her doubles partner, Margaret Varner, and me to spend the week. For a week we lived with multimillionaires.

We got up in the morning at different times, and I remember going into the kitchen, and the chef asked what I would like for breakfast. I said that some scrambled eggs, toast, bacon, orange juice, and milk would be fine. I was expecting normal portions, but the chef brought a platter of scrambled eggs and bacon into the dining room that would have fed five or six people in a restaurant. It was unbelievable. I just ate normal portions, but it was almost sinful to see the amount of food that remained.

In the evenings we sat in the dining room at a very long table, and, of course, there were fancy dishes. Butlers and servants put down and later took off certain pieces of china, some of which we did not even use. I remember sitting next to William duPont who was quite a bit older than Margaret. One night we had prime rib, and because he liked his very, very rare, he was served prime rib that would have been enough for everyone. An additional large prime rib was prepared for the rest, of us, however. It was quite an experience just to go through the eating process at the duPont estate.

Margaret and William duPont had a son who was about seven or eight years old who never ate with us. We hardly ever saw him, but one day, he saw me and asked me to come up to his part of the house. So I went up to the third floor where his nanny was and where he more or less lived. He pretty much had the entire third floor.

In the evening someone turned down the beds. It was like living in another world, one that I was certainly not familiar with and probably never will be again.

ALLY SWANSON: Discuss some of the differences, Jeanne, between when you played tennis and the present.

MISS ARTH: When I played tennis, players had to wear all white; no colored clothes were allowed. That was true not only in the

United States but wherever one may have played. Even today for matches played at Wimbledon, players must wear all white clothing. For other tournaments that is not the case.

Shortly before my tennis playing years there was a top ranked female player whose name was Gussie Moran. I remember when I was playing in the Juniors that Wimbledon officials had a fit, because Gussie Moran wore lace panties. Once in awhile when she was running for a ball or bending, a bit of her lace panties showed, and Wimbledon officials considered banning her from play.

One can see that today's dress has really changed. A lot of bare skin is allowed to show – bare midriffs, for example. Tennis clothes are also tighter. I do not think that some of the clothing that female tennis players wear today is appropriate.

I recall having read in the newspaper that one of the men who was to play at Wimbledon this year (2002) wanted to wear a sleeveless shirt, and the Wimbledon officials would not allow it. By the same token, it appears that the women who play at Wimbledon can show a lot of their body without anything being said about it. The newspaper article pictured the male in his sleeveless shirt, and there was nothing inappropriate about it other than that the shirt did not have sleeves. The policy is somewhat discriminatory in my opinion.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Over recent years that have reflected a greater choice in women's tennis clothing have there been women tennis players who have shown greater discretion than others with respect to what they wear? I am thinking of Chris Evert, for example.

MISS ARTH: Though I did not play in her era, the women who played at

that time wore appropriate tennis dresses.

Their bodies were covered, and they all looked nice. Now I think that too much flesh is allowed to show such as the bare midriffs this year (2002). I see this as inappropriate, because I do not think that spectators come to view someone's sweaty body.

ALLY SWANSON: Do you recall other differences between "then and now" in tennis?

MISS ARTH: Years ago we used only white tennis balls. Now yellow tennis balls are used. We used wooden rackets, and today players use graphite rackets. Today it is "open tennis" meaning that there are big purses! The U.S. Open, for example, provides close to a million dollars for winners. Wimbledon winners receive just a bit less.

When I played there was virtually no money involved although at Wimbledon the winners received just a little "under the table" money. As I recall, the Wimbledon Committee gave me \$300.00 toward my expenses, probably because I was a semi-finalist.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you otherwise have to pay your way to play at Wimbledon?

MISS ARTH: No. There would not have been any way for me to have come up with the money to go to Wimbledon since I was a teacher and was making only \$2,900.00 per year at Holy Angels. The United States is divided into tennis sections. My tennis section encompassed Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. It was called the Northwestern Lawn Tennis Association. There were

also the Northwest Tennis Patrons. Back then, players Jack Kramer, Pancho Gonzales, Pancho Segura and one other player would put on tours. They traveled and played throughout the United States. Sometimes the tennis sections sponsored these events and made a little money. Also wealthy people would donate money to the Northwest Tennis Patrons.

So when I went to Europe and played in a few tournaments, including the French Open, prior to playing at Wimbledon, the organizations I mentioned gave me \$2500.00 that was supposed to cover all of my expenses through the end of summer. I did not spend all that money, because after playing at Wimbledon, I just played at the U.S. Clay Courts. Instead of going back east to play on the grass courts, I returned home. I later played in the Wightman Cup Tournament, the U.S. Doubles, and the U.S. Singles. So I did not use all of the money and returned the dollars I did not use. Strict tabs were not kept on the money, and I laugh when I think of players today who would probably not even think about returning dollars they did not spend.

ALLY SWANSON: Women play two out of three sets and men play three out of five sets in tennis. What is your opinion as to the present controversy of women desiring to play matches that consist of three of five sets?

MISS ARTH: I do not follow tennis all that much today, but I have heard a bit about that. It may be that women want prize money equal to that of men. At Wimbledon the total purse for women is not equal to that of men. The argument the committee uses is that the women play only two of three sets, and the men play three out of five. Women are in good shape and could probably play three out of five.

In the U.S. Open, the money is equal for men and women, so no controversy exists, but, for some reason, Wimbledon differs in that respect.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Do you know, Jeanne, what the dollars consist of today?

MISS ARTH: I believe that the purse awarded for winning the U.S. Open is \$800,000.00 to \$900,000.00 for the singles, and I believe that the Wimbledon purse is close to that amount.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: One of the pictures that you sent to the Intercollegiate Hall of Fame was of you, Darlene Hard, and Hazel Wightman.

Was the picture taken when you and Darlene won a Wightman Cup Team event?

MISS ARTH: No, that picture was taken when we won the U.S. Doubles for the second time in Boston.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did Hazel Wightman simply pose with the two of you?

MISS ARTH: She lived in Boston and presented the trophies.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Was that one of the times you stayed with her?

MISS ARTH: Yes.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: That was nice that she ended up presenting a trophy to players who were staying with her.

MISS ARTH: It was an honor for Hazel Wightman, who had been involved in tennis for many years, to do that. In that picture you also see the trophy plates. We got to keep the bowls, but the plate stays in Boston. Anytime players win a U.S. championship, they are given a small 16 caret gold tennis ball that is the size of a big marble, but it is nice.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I recall having been at your home in St. Paul for dinner one

time, and was impressed with all of the trophies and silver that you had. You certainly had many, many trophies.

MISS ARTH: Yes, I did, and a few years ago I gave most of trophies away – not my silver ones, but the ones with statues on them. I gave them to the St. Paul Urban Tennis League. Trophies are very expensive, and the Urban League holds tournaments at various playgrounds. They are able to use the trophies, because they can take the name plates off and put new ones on.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: It was nice of you to give them several of your trophies.

MISS ARTH: Then when I got ready to move a little over a year ago, some of my friends came over and wanted this or that, so I really did not keep too much. I still have my Wimbledon trophy, my U.S. Doubles trophies, my Girls Sportsmanship trophies, and some Hall of Fame things. I have a few other things, but I did not keep very much at all.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: At times, did you not get to select silver table settings in lieu of a trophy?

MISS ARTH: One time I received a set of stainless steel silverware. When I moved, I discovered it was still in its box, so I took the Oneida silverware with me. I had a lot of plates and platters also, but I retained little of that. There is really no place for all of those things anymore, and it becomes something you either have to dust or shine.

ALLY SWANSON: It is interesting as to how doors open and close throughout one's life. Tennis was certainly a major door that opened for you for a period of time in your life. Then you stopped playing tennis and changed

your focus due to a need to support yourself through a teaching career. Talk about how what you learned through tennis transitioned into the later years of your life and on into retirement.

MISS ARTH: I had pretty much made up my mind that 1959 would be my last year on the women's summer tennis circuit. I had played the summers of 1957, 1958, and 1959. Teaching was my major career and the reason I had gone to college. Also I knew that if I were going to get better in tennis, I would have to move to a state where I could play tennis year round. Plus I would have needed coaching, and I was not about to give up my teaching career to chase after trophies and tennis titles at the time. There was no money in tennis, and I do not know how I would have even afforded to go to California and live on my own. I could not both teach and train to be a better tennis player.

Also a life of traveling to compete in tennis tournaments did not appeal to me. I had experienced that type of life for three to four months for a few summers. It was pretty lonely staying in hotels, and it was just not something that I enjoyed. People sometimes assumed that when one traveled to play in tennis tournaments that a lot of sight seeing accompanied that experience. That was not true for me, because both male and female players were at the tournaments and I played singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. We were on the tennis courts until 8:00pm or 9:00pm, so there was little time for sight seeing.

Finishing tournament play early on would have allowed for a few days of sight seeing, but that would have meant that I would have lost in the early rounds. That did not happen for me, because in doubles I usually played in either the quarterfinals or the

semifinals.

ALLYS SWANSON: What values have impacted retirement for you? Have you continued to have an interest in physical activity or in lifelong learning, for example?

MISS ARTH: When I quit playing tennis I continued to teach and ended up teaching for 37 years. After I quit playing tennis on the national circuit and came back to St. Paul, I played for just a few years in local women's tournaments. In time there were few people to compete against, so it was not much fun. I defeated the last person I competed against in the final round of a tournament 6 - love, 6 - love, and it took approximately 15 to 20 minutes to play the match. To me, playing in tournaments is about competition, and if there is not any competition, it is not much fun.

Once I quit playing in local tournaments, I played mainly doubles with a lot of male players. By then we had indoor facilities in Minnesota, and we would play every Tuesday evening. On Sundays I would play with another group. So I played tennis twice a week. That worked out fine for me.

When I first began to play golf, I performed the skills incorrectly and developed "tennis elbow" though the injury occurred from playing golf. When I played tennis even infrequently, it irritated my elbow more. I decided there was no point to continuing to play a sport that contributed further to an injury. Also I had begun to enjoy golf a great deal, so I totally quit playing tennis some 30 years ago. Now I play mainly golf.

ALLYS SWANSON: One unique experience that we recall from the seventies is when Bobby Riggs played Billie Jean King at the Astrodome and lost the match to Billie Jean. It was a huge spectacle. The year prior to

playing Billie Jean, Bobby played Margaret Court, and he won that match. What were your reactions to these matches, and did “the battle of the sexes” have any effect on your personal experiences?

MISS ARTH: I always thought contests such as those were stupid things to do, because a good male tennis player can always beat a good female tennis player. Bobby Riggs was about 30 years older than Billie Jean King at the time they played one another, so to me, it sort of made a joke out of tennis. Women who were not very knowledgeable probably thought, “Oh boy, a woman can beat a man!” Of course that happened, but it was not the real thing, because if both had been in “their heyday” of playing tennis, Billie Jean would have been lucky to have won one or two games. At the time the Riggs vs. King match occurred, the women’s movement was coming into being, and the event got a good draw of people.

I had quit playing tennis by that time, but in Minneapolis there was a man, Norm McDonald, who worked for Wilson Sporting Goods who used to be one of the top tennis players in Minnesota. He was in his sixties, and I was in my thirties. There was always an invitational tournament held at Minnekada Country Club in Minneapolis. Prior to the final match of the Invitational Tournament, I was asked to play Norm McDonald. I beat him, but he was “over the hill.” In “his heyday and mine,” I would never have beaten him. I was awarded \$100.00 at the time. As I look back on it, I think it was silly to have held such an event. Everyone had a good time, however, and the women thought it was wonderful. The women who did not understand probably thought that the women could beat the men now, but that is not the case.

ALLYS SWANSON: In the sport of golf, Jeanne, you have thus far had six holes

in one, which is a significant accomplishment. Do you play golf primarily for the competitive element or for personal enjoyment?

MISS ARTH: I simply enjoy playing. A friend with whom I played tennis doubles in the Twin Cities began to play golf with her husband. She suggested that I try playing golf, so I bought a set of clubs, and she and I began to play quite a bit. I was in my early thirties at the time. When we had Minnesota education days off, we played golf. We were just beginning, often hacked the balls and enjoyed walking up and down the hills of the course during the day. Then in the evening we played indoor tennis. When I look back, I realize that we were in good physical shape. As is typical of beginners, we frequently sliced the ball vs. hitting it down the middle of the fairway.

When I belonged to private clubs and other clubs I competed in the ladies group. In the four clubs to which I belonged, I always won the ladies club championship. My lowest golf handicap was a two, and now it is a nine. I was self-taught in golf as in tennis. I never took golf lessons.

ALLY SWANSON: It was quite an honor to achieve the ladies championship in four clubs. What were the four clubs to which you belonged?

MISS ARTH: Highland Park in St. Paul, a public course, Southview Country Club in West St. Paul, Wedgewood Club in Woodbury, and a small tournament was held at Mississippi Dunes.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: In golf, as in tennis, did you feel you had natural ability and were able to catch on quickly?

MISS ARTH: I lived near Highland Park Golf Course in St. Paul. When I was not playing with my friend who lived in Minneapolis, I went over to Highland on my own and started on the tenth hole. There were two women there, and I asked them if I could play with them. I was still learning to play and had a wicked slice, because my grip was not correct. One of the two women was the Highland Club champion. I remember her saying to me, "You have such good hands; you have such good feel." She did not know I was a tennis player, but that was the one thing she picked up on right away concerning my golf potential.

Not only did I grip the club incorrectly at first, but my right arm was so dominant. In golf the left arm is more important for a right-handed player. Not holding the club properly resulted in "tennis elbow." Another woman who was a very good golfer said that I needed to move my right hand over. Once I did that, it helped my elbow, and I no longer sliced.

However, I never practiced golf. I never practiced anything, because I played sports just for fun. I had not set my sites on winning. I really enjoy playing golf, because I can be out in the fresh air, and most golf courses are beautiful with respect to nature, birds and a quietness. It was a beautiful fall day today when we played at Kings Mill with all of the colors. It is just very peaceful. Also when it comes to golf, you can play by yourself. You do not need to play with another person whereas in tennis you need to play with someone of equal or better ability if you expect to improve.

I enjoy playing by myself at times in St. Paul. It is just me competing against the golf course. I can also play golf against someone who is much worse than I, and that does not affect my game as long as we keep moving. In tennis, however, it is not

fun to play if you do not play with someone who is equal to or better than you.

ALLY SWANSON: As a woman of Minnesota, what doors have opened to you due to your many outstanding achievements in tennis?

MISS ARTH: Quite a few doors opened. I came by train back to St. Paul after winning the U.S. Doubles in 1958, and individuals who greeted me at the St. Paul train depot included the mayor of St. Paul, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, and some other city dignitaries. My parents, my little brother who was nine or ten at the time, and some tennis friends presented me with roses. And then, to my surprise, there was a police escort out to my home on Osceola, and when we got to the tennis court, there were a few people standing near the curb. A neighbor told me recently that he always remembered that when I came home in 1958 the neighbors were very excited.

Being Catholic and having been connected with Catholic schools, nuns would frequently invite me to speak at communion breakfasts. I did a lot of that on weekends. I was also the first speaker for presentation of the Athena Award that was presented to the top high school female athletes in Minneapolis. I am sure that had I not been a tennis player and well known that many of the things that happened to me would not have happened.

I recently moved into a new apartment, and, of course, I introduce myself to people. One woman in my apartment complex who is a bit older than me, said, "Oh you are the tennis player. My husband has followed your tennis career since you were just a little girl." Just a few days later, there was an envelope on my door that contained some

old newspaper clippings of me. It goes to show how small the world is.

Even today when I sign my name, someone my age or someone just a bit younger than I, will say, "Oh, your name is so familiar. Are you a bowler or this or that?". When I say that I played tennis, he or she will respond, "Oh, yes." So people do remember. I have also been able to travel to many places and have met many interesting people. I am sure that if it had not been for my tennis career, I would not have had those opportunities.

At the College of St. Catherine, I have served on the President's Distinguished Women's Advisory Board. Seven to ten women throughout the United States serve on the board, not necessarily alums. Had I not been a Wimbledon Doubles champion, it is not likely that I would have been asked to serve on that Board. I also served on the Alumni Board, though I do not think that had anything to do with tennis. I have been a very active St. Catherine alum since the year I graduated and have served on various alumni committees.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Jeanne, just prior to your coming to the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia to be inducted into the Women's Intercollegiate Tennis Hall of Fame there were articles written about you in the Minneapolis / St Paul newspapers. You also received calls from various people as a result of those articles. Share some of the individuals' responses.

MISS ARTH: This induction is turning out to be a lot bigger than I anticipated. When I found out about it approximately a year ago, I did not give it much thought. Then the College of St. Catherine picked up on it, plus the newspaper articles came out. I have been just amazed at the phone calls I have received. Some of the people who called, I have neither seen nor talked to for 45

years. One fellow who called me was the athletic director in Bloomington, Minnesota. He is 85 years old now, and I have not seen him since his retirement.

A couple of the women I played tennis with at the St. Paul Tennis Club when I was a little kid called. They are now ages 89 and 85. They taught me to play doubles even though neither they nor I realized at the time, what learning to play tennis doubles might lead to. Following the printing of the newspaper articles, I probably received 20 or more calls, all within the last few days. Calls came from people with whom I had not kept in contact and had not talked to for many, many years. I was not even aware of where some of them lived. Some of the people were simply acquaintances, so what has surrounded the induction has really been amazing!

The College of St. Catherine, my undergraduate school, is all excited about this event. Actually it seems as though others are more excited about it than I am. It is a nice honor, and I am happy that it is not only a personal honor for me but an honor for the College of St. Catherine as well. I think this is an honor I have to share with other people, because I did not achieve tennis recognition on my own. My family and the College of St. Catherine were supportive.

The College prepared me for a teaching career of 37 years. My friends have been important. I think of the people who played tennis with me and helped me along the way as they gave me playing pointers. And, of course, my tennis section, now called the Northern Tennis Section, financially paid for tennis expenses so that I could play in various tournaments. None of the inductees have received this honor on their own, and I certainly have to share the honor with others.

ALLY SWANSON: What advice might you give to young people today who

aspire to high goals in sports or even in life?

MISS ARTH: I think sports have become a business, and unfortunately, too many parents are involved a lot more than what they should be. They often start their children in organized sports as early as ages two, three, four or five. Also they drag them to practices and to out of town, even out of state events. There is so much emphasis on achievement in sport, that today one almost has to participate in only one sport.

So someone who is into tennis does not get into many, if any, other sports. To become excellent tennis players, they spend time at tennis camps. I never had that experience, and my personal opinion is that sports are way too organized today. Children become involved in them at too young an age. I would rather see young people begin organized sports at the seventh or eighth grade level, and I would like to see the families stay out of sport.

It alarms me to see 14 to 15 year old girls play tennis on the national or international circuit for money. They cannot be kids, and it is way too early for them to be involved in that degree of competition. Often the parents live off the money these young people receive. Parental pressure leads to the kids not being able to live a normal life. Some of the top male players have never finished high school. To live out of a suitcase in a hotel with one's parents is not much of a life. It is all about money these days. Children often engage in sports at very young ages due to their parents' wishes, and become burned out early on. By then they have already lost some of the important moments they could have experienced in life.

I played tennis for the joy of playing and for the fun associated with competition,

and I know if young people were to do that today, they would probably not make it to the top. Nevertheless, I think there is so much more to life than just playing a sport. It seems crazy to me that today a company will give young people who agree to use a Wilson racket, for example, millions of dollars even before they have even established themselves in a sport such as tennis. I do not believe my parents would have allowed that. I do not see my parents in the same mold as parents of today. I feel safe in saying that had I been given such an opportunity, my parents would not have allowed it.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: How would you like to be remembered by family and friends? In other words what would you like for your legacy to be?

MISS ARTH: I am not a complicated person and have lived a very simple life. A lot of the recognition that has come to me just came naturally. It was not planned, but I did have natural talent. I think now that parents and even tennis players or athletes themselves set goals they plan to reach. When they do not reach these goals, they experience tremendous disappointment. Coming from Minnesota where I could play tennis just so many months each year, I never had aspirations of that type.

Setting a goal for winning at Wimbledon seemed impossible, but it happened for me without having set such a goal. When people ask me how I managed to go so far in tennis, I cannot explain it. So, I would like to be remembered as a regular person who, though happy with my tennis accomplishments, has never put tennis before my life as a teacher or as a person. I am appreciative of my tennis honors, but I try to take it all in stride and be humble about it.

I do not brag about my accomplishments to other people. In fact, many people that I know are unaware of my tennis accomplishments. I actually do not like being in the limelight. Though I am inwardly happy and pleased with my accomplishments, I desire above all to be healthy, spend time with family and value that which I believe. Teaching has always been more important to me than trophies and recognition. Being a good person does not require the recognition that I have had.

ALLY SWANSON: You are a unique person, Jeanne, in that you live what you believe. You have been dedicated to challenges that have come your way, whether they have been easy or difficult. You have taken the gifts you have been given and developed them to the fullest such that you have brought honor and glory to your family, friends, school, and community as well as to your endeavors of tennis, teaching, and leadership. People today need to value a legacy that looks beyond money and fame and realize that the life worth living is simply the life that one lives.

MISS ARTH: I think too, when you reach a certain pinnacle in any sport, you have to remember that you not only represent yourself in whatever you do or say, but also your family, your school, and your state. Though I have never really thought of myself as a role model, I know I have been looked upon as such when asked to speak at schools and communion breakfasts, so I have had to keep in mind that in each instance, I represent more than myself.

ALLY SWANSON: Your sense of civic responsibility comes through loud and clear as does your commitment to living a good life. You have been an example to others in that respect. We have enjoyed interviewing you and will be adding more to this interview upon your induction this weekend into the

Intercollegiate Tennis Association Women's Hall of Fame. We want to get your final impressions on that event and transition into your future.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: It is now December 15, 2002. You have recently been honored at two major events, Jeanne. Share your impressions of these recent recognitions beginning with the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Women's Hall of Fame event that was held at the College of William and Mary on November 9, 2002. At that time you were inducted into the ITA Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame along with Pam Richmond Champagne, Laura DuPont, Betty Rosenquest Pratt, Nancy Corse Reed and Ann Valentine.

MISS ARTH: The International Tennis Association (ITA) Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame induction event was a very nice and very busy weekend. Everything was well done and well planned for all of the participants and their friends. It began on Friday, November 8, 2002, with a reception at Millie West's home. Approximately 75 people were in attendance.

On Saturday, November 9, 2002, the inductees and their friends attended a luncheon in the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center on the College of William and Mary campus. We also had a tour of the Tennis Center that included the ITA Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame. In the Tennis Hall of Fame we were able to see the memorabilia that all of the participants sent in from previous years along with what this year's inductees contributed. Old rackets, tennis outfits and trophies were among the items that were displayed.

The luncheon was very, very nice. Later on around 6:30pm, prior to the induction ceremony, a reception was held in the University Center on the College of William and

Mary campus. The reception lasted about an hour. Then we went into another room for a wonderful dinner and the presentations. The presentations consisted of a video of each of the inductees. People commented on the professional quality of the videos. Each inductee, following the running of her video, then gave a short speech. The program lasted for three to four hours, and some 250 people were in attendance. It was a very nice weekend. Every aspect was well done and the entire event was well organized. I did not feel any pressure; it was just a very nice weekend.

Each inductee was presented a sterling silver pitcher that made for a very beautiful trophy. We also received an attaché case with our name inscribed on it. The briefcase was left for each of us at our hotel. It was a very nice gift.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Allys and I truly enjoyed being your guests at the induction ceremony. It was beautifully done.

MISS ARTH: In addition to you and Allys, my guests included Sheila Brown, athletic director at the College of St.

Catherine and Sister Andrea Lee, IHM, president of the College of St. Catherine. It was very special to have the president of the college come to the induction.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Had you met either Mark McCormack or Betsy Nagelsen prior to this event?

MISS ARTH: No, I had never met either of them but had heard of Betsy Nagelsen in tennis. Betsy is quite a bit younger than I, but I do recall her name. I was also familiar with the name, Mark McCormack, in that he was the originator of the International Management Group.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you renew any acquaintances at the recent tennis event

in Williamsburg?

MISS ARTH: The only person I knew was one of the other inductees, Betty Rosenquist Pratt. Betty is ten years older than I. I recall that the first year (1957) I played on the Women's Tennis Circuit, it was Betty Rosenquist's last year on the Circuit. I believe that we played against one another in just one tournament. From my junior years of playing tennis, I vaguely knew of one of the other inductees, Nancy Corse Reed. Though I did not know her personally, I knew of her.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Most recently Andrea Lee, president of your alma mater, the College of St. Catherine, gave a reception in your honor. Share your impressions of that event.

MISS ARTH: That just occurred this past Wednesday, on November 11, 2002. It was held at Andrea's home, which I had never been in prior to this event. There were approximately 115 people who attended. A lot of them were friends whom I personally invited. Andrea had told me to invite anyone I wished. There were friends in attendance from my undergraduate college class and others from the College of St. Catherine. I basically knew everyone who attended.

After the reception, I thought to myself that another 30 to 40 friends who had influenced me during my tennis playing days would have enjoyed attending had they not passed away or advanced in age to the extent that they were no longer able to get out and come. It was a lovely reception, and I felt special to be honored in that way and to receive compliments and love from all of my friends who attended.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I imagine it was quite a time of reminiscing.

MISS ARTH: It was, though I was not able to spend a lot of time with
each individual, because it was a two-hour reception.

People were coming and going and enjoying the refreshments. Though I was able to talk to each person, I was unable to spend as much time with each one as I would have liked. There were some friends present with whom I had played tennis but had not seen for many, many years. It was fun to see everyone!

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: You mentioned earlier how your association with tennis
and having become known as a tennis player has enabled
you to serve in various ways that would not have otherwise been the case. You have, for example, served on committees and/or boards connected with the College of St. Catherine. As a result of the recent publicity you have received, have invitations to speak or serve on local committees and boards resurfaced?

MISS ARTH: Yes. Even upon returning from the induction ceremonies
in Williamsburg, I was asked to be the main speaker at the
St. Paul Lions Club when the "Athlete of the Year Award" was to be presented. Though I was recipient of that award in 1958, I declined the invitation to serve as the main speaker for a couple of reasons. I did not know whether I would be available on the day of the meeting, and I really did not desire to prepare the type of speech that one would be expected to deliver.

I also received a phone call from a radio station in St. Paul requesting that I be on what is called the "Laurie and Julia Show" along with two other women. I had never listened to the program, which is on one of our local stations. I agreed to do the show, and it was fun. I was on the radio show for about 40 minutes. It was supposed to be a

call in show, but we got so involved talking that there was not time for people to call in.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Were you asked on the radio program to respond to recognitions and events that recently occurred for you?

MISS ARTH: Yes, recent events as well as my years in tennis. I was also asked to compare what is happening in tennis today to when I was young and playing. Forty minutes went by very quickly, and we could have talked longer.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you end up being the only person on the show that day?

MISS ARTH: It was a three-hour show, and I had a forty-minute segment. Then a couple of weeks ago a fellow from the USTA here in St. Paul called me, because last night Anna Kournikova and Monica Seles were playing an exhibition match to raise money for a university or some other project. He wanted me to appear and toss a coin to determine who would serve. I declined to do that, because I am not interested in attending exhibitions. He offered me two tickets as an incentive for me to be involved, but I told him it was something that I did not wish to do.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: One cannot agree to every request. You are making choices that go along with your preferences, and, at this point in your life, you should be able to do that.

MISS ARTH: I think so too.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: You can also agree to do those things that you might especially want to do. Ally Swanson authored an article that was published in the fall, 1986 St. Catherine's Alumni News (SCAN) that featured

you and your tennis achievements. She stated that in the 1960s you played exhibition matches in the Twin Cities with touring stars that included Althea Gibson and Billie Jean King.

MISS ARTH: I believe the one with Althea Gibson occurred in 1958 or 1959. It was held to celebrate the Minnesota Centennial and was played at the Minneapolis Armory. I believe we played two sets and some mixed doubles. There was no money involved. It was simply done for the commemoration of the Minnesota Centennial. Also in the 1960s, Billie Jean King, Mary Ann Eisel, Rosie Casals, and one other player were traveling through the Twin Cities for one reason or another. I was asked to go down to the Nicollett Tennis Center public courts one afternoon. So after I finished teaching, I went down around 4:00pm and played some doubles for an exhibition. There may have been a few hundred spectators.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did you have an opportunity to visit with those individuals?

MISS ARTH: Very little.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: You also discussed earlier in your interview your perceptions of the pressure that athletes have today from parents, spectators, and often coaches. Do you perceive value in recreational tennis play for young people?

MISS ARTH: If young people play tennis for the enjoyment of playing, it is a wonderful sport. It keeps you in good physical shape, because you exercise your entire body. You get a lot of exercise in an hour if you play

tennis as it should be played. However, too many parents of young tennis players pressure them to go to tennis camps and/or play all year. They often concentrate on only one sport while hoping for a college scholarship that may lead to becoming a professional player. In some cases, parents live off their children who have become good athletes at the early ages of 14 and 15. To me, that is viewing sport as a business. I would like to see young people not be so programmed into playing only one sport, especially at early ages.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: There are so many camps that children can attend, and some may simply select a tennis camp for a one time experience.

MISS ARTH: That may be, but pressure to achieve and perform in a sport also dictates camp experiences when camps are directed toward a specific sport.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Years prior to your recent induction into the ITA Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame, you were inducted into other Halls of Fame. Share those recognitions.

MISS ARTH: Yes. The first one I was inducted into was the Minnesota Tennis Hall of Fame. I believe that was in 1976. Then in 1986, I was inducted into the Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame. The latter was representative of all sports.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Where was the Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame induction held?

MISS ARTH: There is a plaque at the Metrodome where the Minnesota

Vikings and the Minnesota Twins play. On the wall is a plaque in conjunction with a picture that provides information about each inductee. The induction ceremony takes place at a luncheon. Some 30 to 40 people have probably been inducted ranging from Patty Berg to George Mikan.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: So it just happened that the Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame induction was held in the Twin Cities vs. your having to travel to another location?

MISS ARTH: Yes. It was held in Minneapolis. I was also inducted into the Wilson International Tennis Hall of Fame. A dinner was held in conjunction with that induction, but I could not attend. I had my brother go and accept that award for me, because I was away on vacation. A few years ago, I was inducted into my high school Hall of Fame, that is St. Paul Central Hall of Fame. That induction was held at the school.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: You are to be congratulated for having been inducted into several halls of fame in recognition of your sport achievements. Allys and I certainly enjoyed interviewing you, Jeanne, and felt privileged to be a part of induction ceremonies and other events at the McCormack-Nagelsen Tennis Center in Williamsburg, Virginia.

MISS ARTH: It has been fun talking and visiting again with you, Sharon. We have not spent time together nor talked to one another often since 1962-63, the year when we both taught girls' physical education at South High School in Minneapolis. Of course, I see Allys once in awhile when I stop by the College of St. Catherine, which is not all that often.

Our time together has been very enjoyable, and as I said before, I still cannot believe how everything that centered around my induction into the ITA Women's Collegiate Tennis Hall of Fame mushroomed. When I first learned that I was an inductee, I thought I would simply go to the ceremony and receive my award. I had no idea at that time that Sister Andrea Lee, president of the College of St. Catherine, you, Allys and Shelia would attend, nor did I expect the reception that Sister Andrea Lee held in my honor. I was further surprised with 40 to 50 congratulatory cards and 40 to 50 phone calls from friends that I had not heard from in 40 years or so.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: All of these means of recognition most certainly enhanced the significance of the occasion

MISS ARTH: At this stage of my life, I certainly was not expecting anything like what has occurred. Induction into other halls of fame did not carry this degree of recognition and appreciation. Evidently this particular Hall of Fame just "took off" for one reason or another and it certainly turned out to be a very nice occasion.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: I found on the Internet a listing of Minnesota's top 100 sports figures. You are listed as number 34.

MISS ARTH: That was in the Minneapolis Tribune paper. In the millennium year (2000), the Tribune did a write up of Minnesota's top 100 athletes, and I was included in that group.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Did the ranking mean that you were 34th in athletic ability of those mentioned or that the 100 individuals mentioned were ranked according to periods of time when they were prominent athletes?

MISS ARTH: I do not know what the ratings were based on or who was ranked as number one.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Kirby Puckett was listed as number one.

MISS ARTH: Oh, yes. He is not even from Minnesota, but he played for the Twins. He was a good baseball player.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Patty Berg was listed as number five.

MISS ARTH: Patty Berg could easily be number one in that she lived in and was from Minnesota. Some of the people who were listed played for the Lakers and were not even from Minnesota.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: It is not an alphabetical listing.

MISS ARTH: It is difficult to understand what is meant by the ratings other than that the Tribune listed a top 100. That same year Sports Illustrated listed athletes according to state, and I was listed as one of Minnesota's top 50 athletes of the twentieth century.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Again, congratulations on your many achievements. Perhaps we will interview you again, Jeanne, when you are inducted into a golf hall of fame.

MISS ARTH: I do not think that will happen.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: You never know, Jeanne, in that you are a very skilled athlete! As we close this interview I would like to capsize your tennis experience. You began playing tennis as a recreational sport largely because you lived near a tennis club. One of the employees took an interest in you and your sister and invited you to use an aspect of the facility. Along with your natural ability and a bit

of informal instruction, you developed an avid interest in playing tennis first locally, then regionally, and finally nationally. You became a rated player based upon competitions you won, and this resulted in invitations to enter more and more tournaments. National recognition continued as you and your doubles partner, Darlene Hard, won the U.S. Doubles title in both 1958 and 1959. Then came an invitation to play at Wimbledon in 1959. With opportunity at hand, you and Darlene won the Doubles crown!

MISS ARTH: Yes. It would probably never happen again.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: It was a wonderful achievement, nevertheless!

MISS ARTH: Yes, it was, and people often say, "How does that happen?"

I really do not have an explanation for it. Tennis was never a top priority in my life. My interest and progress in tennis just more or less happened. For me, a Wimbledon win occurred even though to win at Wimbledon had not been a goal I set.

DR. VAN OTEGHEN: Thank you, Jeanne, for sharing many aspects of your personal and professional life with Allys and me.

Corrections in the manuscript as edited by Jeanne Arth

Page 14 Manley – Lewis

Page 16 15 – 14

Page 20 25-20

Page 42 Fort Sills – Forest Hills, New York

Page 43 and – on the Philadelphia mainline

Page 44 5-7 – 7-5

Page 50 semi-finalist – semi-finalist in the Mixed Doubles
and the Ladies Doubles champion.

Page 60 Alumni – Alumna

Alumni – Alumnae

Page 62 sport – sports

Signed

June 28, 2005

Jeanne Arth

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